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No. 114

A BRIDAL TRIP

A Comedy in One Act

By

HARRY HURST

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A Bridal Trip.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

MR. FREDERICK FORD } . *a newly-married couple.*
MRS. FREDERICK FORD }
MR. PERICLESE DUDLEY . *a former lover of Mrs. Ford's.*
MRS. ALICE GREEN . . . *Dudley's widowed sister.*

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A Bridal Trip.

SCENE.—MRS. GREEN'S *drawing-room in country house, handsomely furnished. Three doors, the one* C. *being open and giving view of lawn.*

(*Enter* MR. *and* MRS. FREDERICK FORD, C. D. FORD *has two valises,* L. C. *Music No. 1, Wedding March*)

MRS. FORD. Well! this is a cool reception. Nobody to meet us at the station, nobody to welcome us here. Fred, are you sure you mailed my letter?

FORD. (R. C.) What letter, angel?

(*puts down valises on table,* R. C.)

MRS. FORD. I thought we had three valises.

FORD. I put the other one in the baggage car with the trunk. (*above table*)

MRS. FORD. It wasn't put off the train.

(*alarmed*)

FORD. Oh! I guess it was.

MRS. FORD. But indeed I didn't see it. Oh, darling! suppose my curling-irons and hairpins should be in that valise? And, dear me! I left the book we were reading in the waiting-room.

FORD. (*piqued*) If you can spare me better than the curling-irons and the hairpins and the book, I'd better go after them. You've been trying to get rid of me ever since we left the train.

MRS. FORD. Now, lovey, you know that isn't so.

(*caressing him*)

FORD. Well, then, perhaps it isn't. However, I'll go back.

MRS. FORD. There's a dear! And don't be gone long. (*he starts toward* C.; *she crosses to* R. D.) Wait, Fred, wait! Did you mail that letter?

FORD. What letter, sweetness?

(*coming back a step or two*)

MRS. FORD. The letter to Mrs. Alice Green I gave you last Monday. If she didn't receive it, she can't expect us here on our bridal trip and may not even know of our marriage. Think how embarrassing it would be to us!

FORD. Oh! I must have mailed it. (*coming down* C.) I remember putting it in this very pocket as I kissed you and started home; and, angel!—of whom do you suppose I was thinking all the way there?

MRS. FORD. Of me, lamb. (*embrace* R. C.) But the letter?

FORD. (*oblivious*) Yes, and wondering if you would ever really love me—love me, I mean, as I love you.

MRS. FORD. (*laughing*) You infidel!

FORD. And you never loved another man?

MRS. FORD. What a strange question!

FORD. But did you? Answer me.

MRS. FORD. You won't be angry? (FORD *disengages himself.* MRS. FORD *surprised and then laughing*) Why, you jealous man! Can't I love my own father?

FORD. Y-e-s. But ——

MRS. FORD. What's the matter?

FORD. Didn't you know a young man named Peterkin ——

(*hesitates, looking suspiciously at* MRS. FORD)

MRS. FORD. Why—what a question!

(*to chair* R. *of table,* R.)

MRS. ALICE GREEN. (*calling without*) Nellie! Nellie! come in out of that dirt. You mustn't soil your clean dress before Uncle Periclese gets here.

FORD. (*surprised*) Periclese!—the very name! (*to* C. MRS. FORD *rises confused*) Perhaps you are not surprised that Mr. Periclese Dudley is to be here.

MRS. FORD. (*angrily*) Absurd! (*change tone*) Fred, I didn't think you'd suspect me. (*toward him*)

And I don't think we will be very happy if you're going to be so jealous.

(MRS. FORD *is almost ready to cry*)

FORD. (*relenting*) Well, if I'm jealous, it's because I love you so. Come, forgive me, dear; now kiss me and I'll go after the valise. (*she kisses him and in the embrace lets fall her handkerchief*) Good-bye, angel! (*up* C.) You see I'm not afraid to leave you if Mr. Periclese Dudley is coming. (*exit* C. *to* L.) Good-bye!

(*He laughs with effort, appearing reluctant and uneasy about going. Exit* FORD, C. D.)

MRS. FORD. He's a darling (*crosses to* L.) but my! he's jealous. (*sits* L.) I wonder where he heard about Perry? One thing is certain—he must never find out what a desperate flirtation we really had. I don't see how Perry knew we were coming here. I sent him an invitation to the wedding, but I took care not to mention that we would stop here on our bridal trip. Poor Alice! She would have given the world for me to marry her brother Perry. (*laughing*) I never thought of such a thing; and he—well, I did think he never did either, but lately I've changed my mind. (*crosses to* C.) I'm sorry he's here, but I suppose I must make the best of the situation. Well (*rises*), I must hunt Alice. (C.) But first let me see whether my little Freddie has really gone back to the station—dear fellow!

(*Noise of hammering. Exit* MRS. FORD, C. D. *Enter* MRS. GREEN, R. D. *Arranges furniture. A hammering repeated.* MRS. GREEN *runs eagerly toward* C. D., *looking out; returns disappointed*)

MRS. GREEN. Mrs. Birch surely has forgotten to send that book agent, and I was so anxious to buy his "Blissful Matrimony" to present to the dear couple when they arrived. (*stops suddenly at table*) I wonder if, after all, I have misinterpreted Perry's telegram? (*reads telegram—above table*) "Home Thursday; will bring Nellie a new playmate, a little bride. Perry." Strange he

should refer to his bride as a playmate for a child five years old! (*to* L. *of table*, L. *of chair*, D.) But Perry's such an oddity, and it must mean that he has married dear Amy Harper and that they are coming here on their bridal trip. (*sits* L.) What's this? (*rises and picks up handkerchief*) Embroidered—"Amy." Just as I thought! my dear old schoolmate is my brother's wife and they're here already. Yes, there's their luggage. (*looking to* C. D.) And there's Amy herself (*up to* C. D.), but I don't see Perry. Yes, there he is behind. Stop! they shall not see me. (*down* C.) I'll get even with them for not letting me know they had arrived. (*to* C. *down*) Let me see—ah! I have it!

(*Crossing laughingly to* L. D., *which she locks, taking key; then to* R. D., *from which she takes key and exits, making plain that she locks from outside. Enter* MRS. FORD, C. D.)

MRS. FORD. (*excitedly*) Alice! Alice! Oh, dear! this is awkward! (*down* C.) Perry Dudley is coming and I don't want to meet him alone. (*to* D.) What shall I do? I——

(*As she turns, enter* PERICLESE DUDLEY, C. D.)

DUDLEY. (*up* C.) Amy! (*puts down dress suit case on stand* L. *of* C. D.) I thought I could not be mistaken! (*down* L. C.) Why, you ran from me like a frightened deer. But never mind that; I am delighted to see you. (*shakes hand*) You have just arrived?

MRS. FORD. (*faintly*) We came on the nine o'clock train.

DUDLEY. Indeed? Had I but known, I could have made my own trip more agreeable. Besides, by coming on your train I might have escaped a mishap that will insure me a cool reception from my hopeful young niece. Will you be my mediator with the little lady?

(C., *goes up and opens dress suit case*)

MRS. FORD. Alas! (*up toward him a step*) Have you forgotten the propitiatory candy and pop-corn?

DUDLEY. Worse! You see this doll—this bride, or rather what remains of it? (*takes out box with broken doll*) I bought it for the child in Cincinnati, telegraphed her of my purchase and no doubt have her on the tiptoe of expectancy. I took it out on the train to show to a friend, when along came a blockhead of a porter, knocked it out of my hand and here is the result. (*hands it to her*) I fancy I can already hear Miss Nellie's yells of rage and disappointment.

MRS. FORD. (*laughing; crosses to table* R.) Never mind; this was but a make-believe—a mere china bride. You shall pacify Miss Nellie by introducing a real, living bride if you care to. (*places doll on table*)

DUDLEY. Eh?—what? Did I understand you to say —— (*aside*) Yes, this is leap year, and that's a fact.

MRS. FORD. (*laughingly*) Come, sir, none of your drollery. You know all about it, for you have my announcement. (*toward* L. *of table*) So here I am and you can accept or reject my offer as you see fit.

DUDLEY. Reject it! My dear Amy, how can I sufficiently thank you for helping me out in my timidity —— (*going to her*)

MRS. FORD. Oh! no occasion for effusiveness. (*uneasily*) Perhaps—perhaps we better see Alice. (*rises*) I have not yet seen her and I wish to thank the dear girl for inviting us here to spend our honeymoon. (*to* R.)

DUDLEY. No? What rapture! (*follows her*) Amy, I cannot tell you what pleasure this gives me.

MRS. FORD. (*doubtfully*) You are sincere?

DUDLEY. (*reproachfully*) Can you doubt that?

MRS. FORD. Then, Perry, since you are happy, my last cause for regret is removed. I—I was foolish enough to think that the step I have just taken might pain you.

DUDLEY. Pain me?

MRS. FORD. But you do not know how I have longed to be wedded to the man I love!

DUDLEY. (*eagerly*) Yes, yes ——

MRS. FORD. What visions of happiness are before my

eyes! We are so young, Perry; life is all before us; we love each other so fondly!

DUDLEY. (*transported*) Angel of my soul! No, no, you shan't escape from the bliss you have courted. Hear me, little coquette: I thought you were lost to me. But after this proof of affection, I —— There! there! (*embracing her*) Why, sweetheart, what's the matter?

(*While he has her in his arms*, MRS. GREEN *peers cautiously in* C. D. *and, much amused at seeing them embracing, transfers key to outside of door and shuts door, locking on outside.* MRS. FORD *tears herself loose and moves around and above table on which she leans for support*)

MRS. FORD. You coward, you insolent scoundrel! (L. *of table*) Oh! that Fred were here!

DUDLEY. Why, are you really angry? (R. *of table*)

MRS. FORD. You shall pay dearly for this, villain!

DUDLEY. Indeed, Amy, I meant no offense. You know I love you better than my life. (*reaches for her hand across table; she snatches it away*)

MRS. FORD. How dare you insult me! Your sister shall know of this.

DUDLEY. But Amy ——
(*moving toward her above table*)

MRS. FORD. And Fred shall know. He is not the man to pass this by. (*to front of table*)

DUDLEY. Fred? what Fred, Amy? What are you talking about? (*to* L. *of table*)

MRS. FORD. I'm talking about Frederick Ford; you'll find it out to your cost.

DUDLEY. What? Ford, the famous duelist? What has that blood-thirsty fiend to do with my kissing the woman I love?

MRS. FORD. Blood-thirsty fiend! My beautiful, gentle Fred! How dare you slander my husband!

DUDLEY. (*stupefied*) Your hus —— Your what?

MRS. FORD. My husband! You knew it, sir; you got my announcement. You knew we were here on our

bridal trip, for I told you so. Mark my words: I'll tell Fred all!

DUDLEY. Married to that hot-brained ruffian, Ford! (*to* L. MRS. FORD *turns to* R. D.) My life isn't worth a pin's purchase if he finds this out. Madam, I implore you to hear me. It was all a mistake—I swear it! (*trying to kneel, etc.*) On my knees I beg your pardon. No, no, no, don't go—say you forgive me—say you won't betray—Fred isn't a blood-thirsty wretch—no, no! —don't go, I beg you!

(*During above she has crossed to* R. D. *which she tries, then to* C. D. *and finally to* L. D., *frantically. He has followed pleading. At* L. D. *she turns with form drawn up and flashing eyes*)

MRS. FORD. (L., *intensely calm*) Periclese Dudley, did you lock those doors?

DUDLEY. (C.) N-n-n-n-no.

MRS. FORD. You did.

DUDLEY. Indeed I did not.

MRS. FORD. I demand that you let me out of this room. (*to him*, L. C.)

DUDLEY. But how can I? You see they are locked and I haven't the keys and ——

MRS. FORD. (*almost breaking down*) Oh, what if Fred should come now!

(*Knock* C. D. MRS. FORD *sinks half fainting into a chair;* DUDLEY *looks irresolutely from her to door; knock repeated;* DUDLEY *advances to door*)

DUDLEY. (*speaking low*) You can't come in now; some one has locked the doors. (*disguises voice*)

FORD. (*without*) So I perceive. Madam, will you have this door opened?

MRS. FORD. (*rising*) Merciful heaven! It is Fred! Hide, or you are a dead man.

DUDLEY. (*alarmed*) You won't betray me? I swear that I didn't know you were married.

MRS. FORD. Leave me! (*he runs to door* R.)

DUDLEY. But can't we explain ——

MRS. FORD. To Fred Ford? Never!

DUDLEY. But surely we can convince ——

(*runs back to her*)

FORD. (*without*) Open the door, or I'll break it down. Open the door, I say!

(*shakes door violently*)

DUDLEY. Good Lord! if I can only get out of here —— (*rushes wildly to* L. D., *which he tears open and exits*) Thank heaven!

(MRS. GREEN *appears smiling at* R. D.; *amazed at seeing* DUDLEY'S *manner of exit, turns inquiringly to* MRS. FORD, *who runs imploringly to her*)

MRS. FORD. Oh, Alice, Alice, Alice! What shall I do? How can I explain this? Oh, dear! oh, dear!

(*wringing her hands—front of table* R.)

MRS. GREEN. Amy—what has happened?

MRS. FORD. He's at the door, he heard us, perhaps he saw us through the keyhole. Oh, this is dreadful! d-r-e-a-d-f-u-l! (*sobbing on* MRS. GREEN'S *shoulder*)

MRS. GREEN. (*bewildered*) Heard you? Saw you through the keyhole? (*suddenly bursts into a laugh*) I see it all; oh, the modesty of these newly married couples! Ha, ha, ha!

(FORD *shakes door*)

MRS. FORD. How can you laugh? Don't let him in—I can't face him. Take me away! take me away!

MRS. GREEN. (*leading* MRS. FORD R.) Why, ha, ha, ha! it's only a book agent.

MRS. FORD. No, it's not; no, no!

MRS. GREEN. Besides, hadn't Perry a right to kiss you? Ha, ha, ha!

MRS. FORD. Are you mad?—don't you know that ——

MRS. GREEN. There! there! calm yourself.

MRS. FORD. But, Alice, I tell you ——

MRS. GREEN. Yes, yes—I understand—ha, ha, ha, ha! (FORD *knocks again*) Man! can't you wait a min-

ute? (*laughingly forces* MRS. FORD *off* R. D.) There, Amy, control your nervousness; your husband and I will be with you in a few minutes. (*closes door*) I'll lock it so nobody can disturb her. And now to call Perry. Who would have thought that he would behave so absurdly. Ha, ha, ha! (*Calling* L. D.) Perry! come back; it's only a book agent. (FORD *knocking fiercely*) And a very unmannerly book agent. Stop, sir! I'm unlocking it as fast as I can.

(MRS. GREEN *opens* C. D.; FORD *strides fiercely in, book in pocket and valise*)

FORD. (*glaring about room*) Where are they? Where have they fled?

(*to* L., *waving pistol and valise*)

MRS. GREEN. (*up* C., *astounded*) Why, why, why ——

(*backing above table*)

FORD. I'll have the villain's blood! Do you hear?

(R. *below*)

MRS. GREEN. Merciful powers! is the man mad?

(*to* C. *up*)

FORD. Where is my wife? where is she, I say?

(*to her, up* C.)

MRS. GREEN. Er—er—your what?

(*backing over* L. *toward sofa*)

FORD. My wife. She and that man are concealed somewhere in this house. Where are they? where are they? where are they?

(*to her; she backs around to sofa*)

MRS. GREEN. (*forward up* C.) Lord save me! I've a lunatic to deal with. I must soothe him some way.

FORD. Does she think to hoodwink me? (C.) to disgrace Frederick Ford? Oh, the deceitful ——

(*slams down valise* C.)

MRS. GREEN. Lying, shameless huzzy! Poor man! I know all about your troubles.

(*toward him—front of sofa*)

FORD. Eh? what? (*to her—she starts*)

MRS. GREEN. (*soothingly*) Yes, yes, but you must

try to forget them for a while and we will sit down together on this sofa and you can show me your sample copy ——

(FORD'S *book in one pocket*)

FORD. (*shouting*) My what? (*to her*)

MRS. GREEN. Your sample copy.

FORD. (*staring*) Madam, are you —— Or stop; is this Mrs. Green's house—are you Mrs. Green?

MRS. GREEN. Yes, indeed, and I've been expecting you all morning.

FORD. As I thought; so we now understand each other.

MRS. GREEN. Perfectly. I'm so much obliged to Mrs. Birch for sending you; and now if you will let me inspect "Blissful Matrimony," I may buy it for my brother and his wife.

FORD. (*staring*) Madam, I beg pardon, but do you know what you're talking about? Aren't you laboring under some delusion? (*down* L.)

MRS. GREEN. (*aside*) He imagines everybody suffers with his own malady. (*aloud*) Oh, sir, my mind is sound, I assure you; though at present my house seems an asylum for persons whose minds are ——

FORD. Ah! (*as toward her she backs* R. *above table; he kicks valise off stage*)

MRS. GREEN. (*sidling toward sofa above table* R.—*aside*) I mustn't offend him. (*aloud*) I refer to two young people crazed on the very subject on which your book treats. I have locked the woman in that room. (*points* R.)

FORD. (*going to front of table to door—aside*) Does she mean my wife? Is Amy at the mercy of this mad-woman? Perhaps it's all a mistake, perhaps it wasn't she I heard in this room. She may be innocent and in deadly peril. (*suddenly aloud*) Madam! (*she starts to* C.) I—I am expert in this honeymoon insanity. I can cure this woman if you will give me a sight of her.

MRS. GREEN. Not for the world! (FORD *above*

table; she crosses below to R.) My brother, Periclese, is terribly jealous. When he returns you can consult with him about his wife's case. (*glancing* L.)

FORD. (*up* L. *of table*) His wife? Is Periclese Dudley married?

MRS. GREEN. Certainly. It was my brother and his wife you heard when you were knocking on that door. They're here on their bridal trip.

FORD. (*aside*—C.) Can this be? Sounds reasonable enough. Have I basely misjudged poor Amy? (*aloud, suddenly*) Madam, I see my error and I beg your pardon for raising this commotion. Now, if you will kindly show me where my wife is ——

MRS. GREEN. Your wife? I tell you I know nothing about your wife.

FORD. Isn't your name Green? Didn't you ask us here on our bridal trip? (MRS. GREEN *stares dumbly*) Mad! mad! and Amy perhaps at her mercy! (C.—*aloud*) Madam, pardon my inspecting your house. (*tries door* R.—*aside*) Locked; maybe I can find another entrance by going around. (*crossing* C.) You see, madam, I'm anxious to buy a place like this and I have your husband's permission to look over the property. No, no—don't think of accompanying me; I wouldn't trouble you for the world.

(*Exit* FORD, C. D., *to* R.)

MRS. GREEN. (*reënter*) Saints of heaven! a maniac loose in this house! (*looking from* L. D.) Oh, that he would meet Perry! My brother's adventurous spirit would delight in such an encounter.

(DUDLEY *appears cautiously at* C. D. *from* L.)

DUDLEY. (*softly*) Sister?

MRS. GREEN. (*turning startled quickly*) Just in time, Perry! Pursue the man. (*points to* C.) I can read your heroic ardor in your face. But don't injure the poor wretch.

DUDLEY. (*advancing timidly*) But, who—who—what ——

MRS. GREEN. It's a book agent.

DUDLEY. No?

MRS. GREEN. Yes, yes! Mrs. Birch sent him here; I've been expecting him. He has suddenly gone insane and fancies I'm concealing his wife from him. Follow and keep him in sight. And above all don't let him frighten Amy. I'm going to get somebody to help us catch and blind him.

(*Exit* MRS. GREEN, C. D. *to* L.)

DUDLEY. Good Lord! what a scare I've had! Book agent, eh? Well, I'd rather face a regiment of book agents than that gunpowder Ford, yes, be they insane to boot. (*to* R.) Why, I'm so agitated at this very moment that I believe the very appearance of that fellow Ford would ——

(*Enter* FORD *suddenly* L. D. *from* R.)

FORD. (*down* C.) I can find no entrance. (*wildly*) My wife! my Amy! where is she? Ah! (*intercepts* DUDLEY *who is filled with terror*) You, sir; where is Mrs. Ford? You're Periclese Dudley, if I mistake not?

DUDLEY. Mercy! I'm innocent—it was a mistake.

(*backing down and into a chair* L., *opposite table*)

FORD. Mistake? Isn't your name Dudley?

DUDLEY. Y-y-yes—that is—I think ——

FORD. (*wildly*) Amy! Amy! Amy! where is she?

DUDLEY. I swear to you ——

(*on knees, placing chair before him*)

FORD. You don't know?

DUDLEY. She is safe, unharmed; she knows it was a mistake.

FORD. Unharmed? You are sure of that?

DUDLEY. Sir! as I hope for salvation I declare it.

FORD. Thank heaven for that! What a load you have taken from my mind! And now, sir, it remains for me to settle with you.

DUDLEY. Mercy! I tell you ——

FORD. By offering an apology.

DUDLEY. (*stupefied*) W-w-w-what?

FORD. I heard voices in this room; the door was locked; I heard your name called in feminine accents. My suspicions carried me beyond myself. I fancied the voice was my wife's.

DUDLEY. But, sir ——

FORD. I now realize my mistake ——

DUDLEY. (*eagerly*) Yes, yes ——

FORD. On my knees I will entreat my wife's pardon, and I hope, sir, that you can forgive my most unjust suspicions.

DUDLEY. (*overjoyed*). Oh, don't mention it!

FORD. And now in regard to this other most unexpected and happy event, accept my hearty congratulations.

DUDLEY. (*astonished*) Hey? What?

FORD. I beg an early introduction to the lady, so that I can explain and make my apology complete.

DUDLEY. Y-y-yes, certainly. (*shakes his hand violently*) But I beg pardon, sir; to what lady do you refer?

FORD. To your wife, of course.

DUDLEY. You amaze me!

FORD. Will you present me at once?

DUDLEY. I—I fear that is impossible. (*dazed*) I—I fear, Mr. Ford, there is some mistake.

FORD. Mistake?

DUDLEY. Indeed, sir, to the best of my knowledge I haven't any wife.

FORD. What? Are you sure?

DUDLEY. Reasonably sure, sir.

FORD. Then whom were you hugging and kissing when I knocked?

DUDLEY. Good Lord! I ——

FORD. Answer me! No trifling!

DUDLEY. I—I—I—I fancy it was the cook.

FORD. Do you mean you have married the cook?

DUDLEY. (*bewildered*) Not exactly; I—I ——

(*Enter* MRS. GREEN, L. D.) Ahem! (*crosses to* C.) My dear sister, there seems some slight misunderstanding. This gentleman is no book agent, but Mr. Frederick Ford, whom with his wife you have invited here on their bridal trip, as you know.

MRS. GREEN. (*staring*) Is insanity contagious? Frederick Ford? I never heard of such a person.

DUDLEY. Come, sister; you know better than that. (*to* FORD) Sir, if you will excuse me a moment, I will find your wife and bring her to you. She is certainly somewhere about the house.

(*Exit* DUDLEY, C. D.; MRS. GREEN *stares stupidly after him; she turns and stares likewise at* FORD)

FORD. (*puzzled, aside*) Can it be the fellow has been flirting with the cook and his poor, demented sister imagines them man and wife? (*advancing*) Madam ——

MRS. GREEN. (*retreating*) Go away! I tell you I don't know you. *I* invite you here on your bridal trip? Never!

FORD. (*soothingly*) Do try to remember. Your brother said ——

MRS. GREEN. (*back of sofa*) My brother is as crazy as you are. You can't fool me. You're a book agent, I tell you.

FORD. (*aside*) I must humor her whim. (*aloud*) My dear madam, you are quite right. I am nothing more nor less than a book agent. Here is a copy of my book. (*coaxingly*) Come, dear, we'll sit on this nice sofa together and we'll turn the leaves of "Blissful Matrimony" ——

MRS. GREEN. Go away! Help! Help!

FORD. Why, I wouldn't hurt you for the world. (*reaches her near* L. *door; catches her arm and strokes her caressingly while she stands frozen with terror*) This should convince you. (*kissing her*)

(*Enter* MRS. FORD *and* DUDLEY, C. D.)

MRS. FORD. Yes, it was a mistake, and I'll not betray

you. (*stopping aghast*) What's this? Frederick Ford, how dare you?

FORD. (*running toward her*) Thank heaven! My precious wife restored to me.

MRS. FORD. Stop, sir! How can you have the impudence, the audacity —— Oh! Oh! Oh!

(*sinks into chair*)

MRS. GREEN. His wife? Periclese, do you hear?

DUDLEY. (*puzzled*) Why, surely you knew it?

MRS. GREEN. You, too, as I thought. My poor brother! Oh, Amy! Amy! What an end to your honeymoon!—your husband a lunatic! It's pitiful.

(*weeping, to sofa*, L.)

FORD. My darling wife, this woman is a maniac ——

MRS. GREEN. I? Why, I'm the only sane one among them.

FORD. I say she is a maniac whom I was merely trying to soothe as you entered. You are aware, I think, Mr. Dudley, that one of your sister's hallucinations is to regard you as married?

DUDLEY. Good heavens! To whom?

MRS. GREEN. To Amy, of course.

DUDLEY. My poor sister! You don't imagine me married to Amy? (*to her*)

MRS. GREEN. Poor fellow! It's useless to reason with him.

DUDLEY. What has made you think this?

MRS. GREEN. Alas! Amy, here's his own telegram.

(*to* MRS. FORD)

DUDLEY. (*puzzled*) My telegram? (*takes it*)

MRS. GREEN. Now doesn't it say you would bring home a bride?

DUDLEY. Why, I referred to a doll; to a present for little Nellie. There it lies on the table.

MRS. GREEN. (*bewildered*) But didn't I see you embracing in here ——

DUDLEY. No! No!—I swear it was the hired girl.

FORD. Sir! If you have deceived me ——

MRS. FORD. Fred, how dare you believe such a thing! But if it were true, what right have you to complain—

you, who spend half your time hugging and kissing other women? Oh, dear! (*weeping*)

FORD. But my precious Amy, I explained. Dry your eyes; (*kneeling*) see, I am at your feet for pardon.

DUDLEY. (*low to* MRS. GREEN) You must say it was the cook unless you want him to murder me. He's a famous duelist.

MRS. GREEN. Who?

DUDLEY. Amy's husband, of course.

MRS. GREEN. (*aloud*) Husband? Where is he?

MRS. FORD. My dear Alice, don't you remember inviting us here on our bridal trip? Here is the telegram you sent me. (*crosses to her*, R. C.)

MRS. GREEN. (*reading*) "Am delighted; come on; don't think of spending your honeymoon elsewhere. Alice." But this was in reply to Perry; I thought you were the bride he was to bring home. (*to* FORD) Are you, sir, married to Amy?

MRS. FORD. (*suddenly*) I see it all! Frederick Ford, you never mailed that letter! (FORD *starts in dismay; fumbles in his pocket; two letters drop out*) There it is and Perry's invitation also!

(*As* MRS. FORD *stands pointing to letters, the lines on her face relax into a smile*)

DUDLEY. FORD. MRS. FORD. MRS. GREEN.

CURTAIN.

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THOMAS HOLDER, *a policeman*
WILLIAM BIGBEE, *an inmate of the Sanitarium*
HENRY FULLER, *superintendent of the Sanitarium*
MRS. GOODLY, *Ebenezer's wife*
CISSY, *Ebenezer's ward*
MARJORIE, MINERVA, } *Ebenezer's daughters*
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ED. SCOTT	Friend of Dick and Member of Yale Crew.
TOM HAYNES	Member of Yale Crew.
ROBERT CROSBY	Member of Yale Crew.
JEPSON	Boatman.
POL	
HARRY WILSON	
WILL TAYLOR	
MRS. RANDAL	Jack's Mother.
DOROTHY RANDAL	Her daughter.
POLLY BURK	A friend of Dorothy.
MAME BRADY	A poor girl.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I.—Vanderbilt Hall, New Haven.

ACT II.—SCENE 1.—A Boat House, Gales Ferry.
SCENE 2.—The Start. Gales Ferry Quarters.
SCENE 3.—The Race. Thames River.

ACT III.—Exterior of Griswold Hotel, Eastern Point. New London. The night of the race.

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CAPTAIN HODGES,
GEORGE SELWYN,
JAMES VAN RENSSALAER,
ARTHUR BLAKE,
AUSTIN LATCHOW.
} Members of the Varsity crew.
OLD CLOTHES MAN.
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MRS. KENYON.
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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

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PLACE.—Cambridge, Mass.
SCENE.—Tom Brown's and Claxton Madden's apartments in "The Wetherby," a students' apartment house.

ACT II

SCENE.—Yard at Harvard. The exterior of a dormitory.

ACT III

SCENE.—"The Varsity Boat Club" on the day of the race with the English Amateurs. The scene is laid in the large hall of the boathouse.

ACT IV

SCENE.—Same as Act One.

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